

Montana Laboratory Sentinel

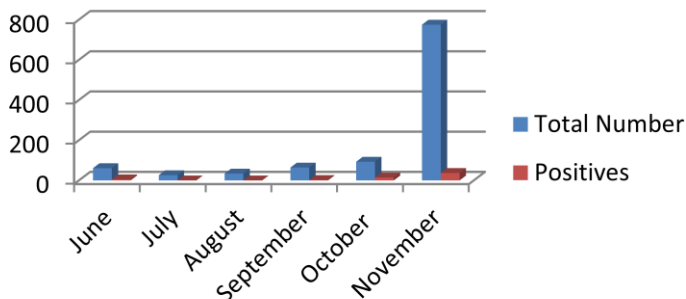


Updates from the MT Laboratory Services Bureau
800-821-7284 www.lab.hhs.mt.gov

11/21/2011

Pertussis 2011: MTPHL Responds

During the recent pertussis outbreaks occurring in Gallatin, Lewis and Clark, and Park Counties, clinical laboratory scientists (CLSs) at the Montana Public Health Laboratory (MTPHL) responded to the need for PCR testing to aid in epidemiological investigation and intervention. This surge of testing required CLSs to work extended hours and weekends, to ensure rapid turnaround of results. In addition, special courier pick-up was arranged to ensure specimens were delivered in a timely manner. The chart below shows the spike of tests compared to "typical" volumes.



Because other respiratory viruses are also circulating, it was very important to identify the true pertussis cases in a timely manner, so that cases and contacts could be properly treated in an effort to prevent further spread of infection. This is especially important for those with contact with young children and infants less than one (1) year of age, in whom the infection can be fatal.

The large volume of specimens made MTPHL aware of the importance of legible scannable laboratory request forms. Please continue to help us to ensure the correct patient and test information is entered by accurately, legibly and completely filling out laboratory request forms.

CDC Announces Free Online Training Promoting Good Laboratory Practices for Waived Testing

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Division of Laboratory Science and Standards is now offering a free online laboratory training module entitled, "READY? SET? TEST! Patient Testing is Important. Get the right results."

This training was developed to supplement other free educational materials already available from CDC to promote good laboratory practices and assure the quality of patient testing, especially in physician office laboratories and other sites that perform testing waived under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA). It includes practice exercises, job aids, and real-life testing scenarios to reinforce the learning process. After completing the module, participants may print out a Certificate of Completion and obtain continuing education credits offered to physicians, nurses, pharmacists, laboratory professionals, and others.

We encourage you to share this information broadly with colleagues who are concerned with promoting good laboratory practices, especially in waived testing sites. In addition, if possible, we would appreciate your organization or facility's inclusion of an electronic link to the training and other educational materials at the following CDC website locations.

Available through the CDC's website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/dls/waivedtests/>

FREE Packaging and Shipping Division 6.2 Materials

Event Code: 588-302-11

Event Type: On-Line Course

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

[Click here to download course flyer](#)

Packaging and shipping Division 6.2 materials, such as patient specimens containing infectious materials and cultures, are regulated by U.S. and international transport agencies. Fines and penalties can be imposed against those who fail to comply with the applicable rules including proper classification and documentation of training, proper packaging, marking and labeling and proper shipping documentation. This intermediate-level online course, designed for individual study, is suitable for those seeking re-certification. Participants are provided with information useful for complying with regulations through use of instructional content and the opportunity to apply knowledge using realistic scenarios.

This course is intended for those learners seeking re-training in packing and shipping of infectious substances (Division 6.2 materials). This course does not apply to individuals seeking initial certification. **Please be aware that this training will not include any changes to be made in 2012. Those will necessitate an update to training done in 2011.**

